

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A projectile core, comprising:  
  
a carrier and a colorant mixed and formed into a substantially firm predetermined core shape that is retained by the projectile core prior to impact of the projectile core upon a target.
2. The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the projectile core is adapted to support a coating, wherein the coating conforms to the predetermined core shape.
3. The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the colorant is at least one of a pigment and a liquid dye.
4. The projectile core of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the projectile core is adapted to disintegrate or disperse upon impact with a target.
5. The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises one of a fibrous, absorbent material and a powder.
6. The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a plant fiber.
7. The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a cellulosic material.

8. The projectile core of claim 7, wherein the cellulosic material comprises rice straw.
9. The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a powder.
10. A projectile for marking a target, comprising:  
a projectile core comprising a carrier and a colorant mixed and formed into a substantially firm predetermined core shape that is retained by the projectile core prior to impact of the projectile core upon a target; and,  
an outer coating.
11. The projectile of claim 10, wherein the coating conforms to the predetermined core shape.
12. The projectile core of claim 10, wherein the colorant is one of a pigment and a liquid dye.
13. The projectile core of claim 10, wherein at least a portion of the projectile core is adapted to disintegrate or disperse upon impact with a target.
14. The projectile core of claim 10, wherein the carrier comprises at least one of a fibrous, absorbent material and a powder.
15. The projectile core of claim 10, wherein the carrier comprises a plant fiber.

16. The projectile core of claim 10, wherein the carrier comprises a cellulosic material.

17. The projectile core of claim 16, wherein the cellulosic material comprises rice straw.

18. The projectile core of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises a powder.

19. A method of forming a projectile core, comprising:

- (a) mixing a carrier and a colorant to form a core mixture;
- (b) forming the core mixture into a predetermined core shape;

and,

- (c) curing the core mixture until a substantially firm projectile core is formed.

20. The method of forming a projectile core according to claim 19, wherein the projectile core is further heated until an outer layer is formed adjacent the projectile core's outer surface.

21. A method of forming a projectile, comprising:

- (a) mixing a carrier and a colorant to form a core mixture;
- (b) forming the core mixture into a predetermined core shape;
- (c) curing the core mixture until a substantially firm projectile core is formed; and,
- (d) coating the outer surface of the projectile with an outer coating.